

Dolwyddelan Community Newsletter

Winter

2025/26

TI A FI DOLWYDDELAN

Christmas

TINY TRACTOR RUN

Decorate your tractor/bike/ride on, and help us raise funds for the Ti a Fi baby and toddler group!

Starting point: Dolwyddelan train station car/ park at 3.30pm on the 5th of December.

The children will celebrate the end of the journey with hot chocolate near the Christmas tree on the square.

Please come and show your support!



To contact the Pavilion – 01690 750 490 (answerphone)
Or contact the following for a more immediate response –
Paul Donnelly 07534 120 193 Bob Valintine 01690 750 205
Kirsty Jones 07703 834 322
mentersiabod@googlemail.com
Community Pavilion – Rear of Ysgol Dolwyddelan
Dolwyddelan, Conwy LL25 0SZ

St. Gwyddelan's Church, Dolwyddelan.

Advent and Christmas

Advent is the period from 1st – 24th December, and is historically a time of preparation, a time of hope, reflection and anticipation. Embracing the spirit of advent can bring comfort and inspiration amid the business of life and encourage a sense of peace as Christmas approaches.



Services and Event dates:

Sunday 30th November at 18:00pm -

St. Gwyddelan's Evening Advent service

Saturday 6th December at 11:00am - 16:00pm -

St. Mary's Hall, Betws-y-coed – Christmas Fair

Sunday 7th December at 9:30am -

St. Gwyddelan's - Morning Eucharist

Sunday 21st December at 9:30am -

St. Gwyddelan's - Morning Eucharist

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services:

Wednesday 24th December at 17:00pm -

St. Gwyddelan's - Afternoon Carols by candlelight.

Wednesday 24th December at 23:30pm -

St. Mary's Betws-y-coed – Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December at 10:30am -

St. Mary's Betws-y-coed – Christmas Day Morning Eucharist

Sunday 4th January at 9:30am -

St. Gwyddelan's - Morning Eucharist

Stuart, Vicar email: Ficer@brogwydyr.cymru **or Tel:** 01690 710313

Website: brogwydyr.cymru

Facebook: St Gwyddelan's church, Dolwyddelan

In October, Dolwyddelan lost three of its treasured residents. They will be missed.

Wendy Ann Roberts, Cambrian

3rd October, aged 60

Les and the family would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who has shown sympathy and kindness during this difficult time.



**Eurwyn Roberts,
Pen-y-Cafnau**

6th October, aged 75

The family wish to express their sincere thanks for all the kindness and sympathy shown to them in their bereavement.



Eunice Cawley, Penlan

10th October, aged 84

Gwynfor, Debrah, Mike and the family wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the kindness and sympathy shown to them in their bereavement.



Village Cinema

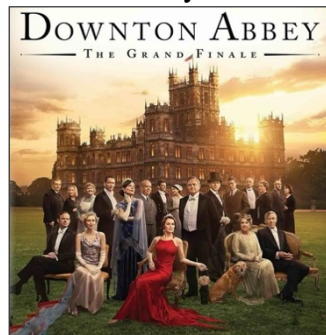
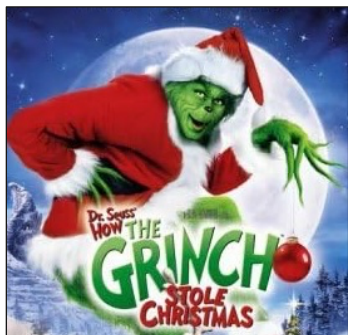
Gwyddelan Suite – 7.00pm

Forthcoming attractions

December 17th

January 21st

February 18th



**Available to hire by the day
from Menter Siabod at the Pavilion . . .**



Wheelchair – a donation

Marquees - £50 per day (plus £50 deposit)

Folding tables – free to locals

Carpet shampooer - £10 per day

Spot cleaner (good for stairs) - £5 per day

Pavilion and Gwyddelan Suite hire charges . . .

Organisation	Morning (up to 4hrs)	Afternoon (up to 4hrs)	Evening (up to 4hrs)	Full Day
Regular meetings (weekly/monthly) Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations	£10	£10	£10	£25
One-off or occasional Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations	£15	£15	£15	£35
Business	£25	£25	£25	£60

Use of Audio/Visual equipment is an additional charge of £5 per session

Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations (regular meetings) with less than 10 attendees will pay £1 per head per session up to 4 hours

Any enquiries please contact . . .

Bob Valintine 01690 750 205 Paul Donnelly 07534 120 193

Kirsty Jones 07703 834 322

Eunice Cawley and Menter Siabod

As members of the Menter Siabod committee, we felt that it would be remiss of us not to pay special tribute to our friend Eunice.

Eunice has been at the heart of Menter Siabod since its early days. She had a passion for bringing people together, and her energy, enthusiasm and commitment gave us a weekly Friday meeting, first as a Table Top/Bric a Brac Sale, and later as the Friday Lunch Club. Through her efforts, thousands of pounds have been raised over the years towards Menter Siabod, the upkeep of the Pavilion and other charitable causes.



Thank you, Eunice. You will be sorely missed.

Nerys Valintine

‘Doli in Bloom’



Following a recent meeting, our chairperson Myfanwy Chapman stepped down, after several years supporting us. Thankfully she continues as a member, and we value her

knowledge of the village and surrounding area. Thank you from us all.

Myfanwy paid tribute to friend Eurwyn Roberts, who will be sadly missed by all our group (DiB) Myfanwy has known Eurwyn since childhood, they sat together at primary school. Eurwyn retired from Gwynedd council and went on to develop his garden nursery. He and his father were both keen gardeners. Eurwyn became known over north Wales for his Dahlias, producing wonderful blooms and exhibiting in local shows as well as the Royal Welsh show. He became involved in our own horticultural show, possibly in the 60s. He will be greatly missed, not only for his contribution to this show but to the whole community. May I add, he was also an excellent stone wall builder.

Rest in peace our friend.

Angie Burke

Love Letter to Dolwyddelan

I first discovered Dolwyddelan by accident - or perhaps by fate. One June afternoon in 2024, when the noise and neatness of Ascot had finally worn thin, we escaped north in search of mountains, peace and maybe a decent Welsh cake. We parked outside a small stone cottage nestled beneath the slopes of Moel Siabod - the kind of place that looked like it had been waiting centuries for someone to fall in love with it. The river murmured nearby, the hills shimmered in soft light and I turned to Jason and said, "If this ever comes up for sale, we're buying it."

A few months later, it did.

That's when romance met reality. Moving day was less "grand relocation" and more "two men and a van - in meltdown." One small transit van. Thirty-two degrees of heat. Two hundred miles between Ascot and our new life. We made five round trips in two days, loading and unloading boxes until we looked like survivors of an endurance event no one would ever sign up for. When we finally carried the last box from the van to the roadside outside our new cottage - because, of course, there's no driveway - we stood there, sweat-soaked and smiling and knew we'd done the right thing.

Leaving Ascot meant leaving convenience behind: supermarkets open till midnight, Deliveroo at the door, trains every five minutes. In exchange, we got something slower, quieter and infinitely richer. Here, the rush hour involves one tractor and a wandering sheep. The only queue is behind the post van. And the view - mountains rising and fading into the mist - makes up for every missing takeaway menu.

Our friends thought we'd lost the plot. "You're moving *where*?" they asked, as if we'd announced plans to live on the moon. But the moment Dolwyddelan gets under your skin, you can't imagine being anywhere else. There's magic in the way the morning mist curls through the valley, the way church bells drift on the wind, and the way everyone seems to know you - and your business - within about 48 hours.

We'll admit, we were nervous. Moving from Ascot's polished suburbia to a small Welsh village as a same-sex couple, we wondered how we'd be received. Would we fit in? Would we feel at home? But those worries melted away faster than snow on a slate roof. The welcome was warm, genuine and gloriously unpretentious. People wave from cars, drop by with tools or advice and offer expert opinions on everything from log stores to sheep deterrents.

We've learning the rhythms of rural life now. We've learned that "just



up the road” might mean anywhere within a five-mile radius; that rain here doesn’t fall, it commits; and that a trip to the Co-op in Llanrwst counts as both a social event and a cardio workout. We’ve joined local groups, explored woodland paths and occasionally even managed to understand a full sentence of Welsh before the conversation galloped away again.

Of course, life here isn’t perfect - but that’s its charm. The Wi-Fi sulks when the wind changes, the Calor heating has a mind of its own and the sheep treat the A470 like their personal promenade. But when you step out on a crisp morning and see sunlight spilling over the valley or hear the river whispering after a night of rain, perfection feels like a very overrated concept anyway.

Dolwyddelan has given us something Ascot never could: stillness. It slows the pulse and clears the noise. It’s a place that insists you stop rushing and start noticing - the scent of woodsmoke on cold evenings, the chatter of rooks at dusk, the quiet pride of belonging to a community where people genuinely look out for one another.

In moving north, we didn’t just change postcodes; we changed pace, perspective and priorities. We’ve found happiness here not through convenience, but through connection - to nature, to neighbours and to each other.

So yes, this is a love letter - not only to a village, but to the life it’s helped us rediscover. To laughter echoing in the valley, to mugs of tea cooling on the windowsill while the rain dances outside and to a kind of peace that asks for nothing more than your attention.

Dolwyddelan, you had us at hello.

Lloyd C. Mason-Boardman

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Local Artist

Helena Wróblewska

07828 761114

Angorfa, 3 Bron Llan, Dolwyddelan

HZWDesigns@ProtonMail.com



Dolwyddelan youth club Halloween movie night!!



With it being the last session of term, the young people of the youth club decided they would like to have a movie night to celebrate finishing the first term of school, and also to celebrate Halloween.

The young people of the village had a vote on what to watch and decided to go with, 'A Nightmare Before Christmas.' They all enjoyed the movie night, having the film play on the big screen in the village pavilion. All the young people who attended had hot food and drinks

provided. There were also other Halloween themed activities for the young people to take part in, if they didn't want to watch the movie.

After this session was such a success and enjoyed by the young people of the village, we will be hosting another movie night on the 17th of December 17:00 – 19:00, in the village pavilion with a Christmas buffet available. This movie night will obviously be Christmas themed.

So, if you know a young person aged 11 – 17 in the village who doesn't already attend the club please tell them they are more than welcome to join us. Every Wednesday, term time 17:00 – 19:00.

Thanks, Area Youth Worker Matt Mullender.



2nd Annual Barrel Rolling Tournament

Boxing Day 1.00pm

Meet for pre-drinks at Y Gwydyr

Y GWYDYR HOTEL

At the heart  of . . .
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Open for drinks 12.00 till late, daily.

Food served Tuesday to Sunday

Walker and bikers very welcome.

Dinner menu 17.00-20.30pm

Sunday Lunch 12.00-14.30pm

Thai meals by Namthip, every Wednesday 17.00-20.30pm



Pre-booking recommended . . .

through Facebook/Y Gwydyr Hotel Dolwyddelan or Tel. 07464 710 257

Private catering available for parties and functions.

Latest News on Dolwyddelan's Historic Capel Bethel

Firstly, we would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of Eurwyn Roberts, Trustee to Capel Bethel. He was a very much respected resident of our village. May he rest in peace.

Bethel Action Group (BAG) continues efforts to secure Capel Bethel as a significant community asset by raising awareness through this newsletter, a BAG website and newly created Facebook profile.

<https://bethel-action-group.jimdosite.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568604797542>

Ideas together with concerns for Capel Bethel's use continue to flow, many of which have already been published. We would however like to highlight important opportunities that may be available to us. There is scope to utilise the neglected grounds along Church Street for new, modern, affordable housing in addition to the effective use of the main chapel building.

The intention is to complement, not duplicate, the facilities and services provided by Y Gwydyr, the Pavilion, the School and the IT suite. There is scope to develop, grow and offer new opportunities within the village including:

- * Generating revenue by renting space for display purposes, providing accommodation for poets in residence, repair shop and other means, to ensure Capel Bethel's future is self-funded and sustainable.
- * Display a narrated story of Dolwyddelan's history with photographs and artifacts presently hidden away.
- * Tourist information. Points of interest.
- * Employ local tradesmen to carry out renovations and repairs.
- * Provide an allotment garden for community use.

Note: Individuals in the village continue to observe further external deterioration, the increased loss of glass from the windows and a deteriorating roof threatening the internal fabric. Several slates have slipped from the roof and are now resting perilously in the gutter.

If you share our vision, please join us. We are looking for volunteers, professional guidance and donations. Maybe you would like to join us at the next group meeting? Please contact us:

BAG Secretary: Helena Wróblewska, 07828 761114,

Helena_w@btinternet.com

BAG Chairman: Richard Griffin, 07736 059925,

Richard_griffin@btinternet.com

BAG Treasurer: Jon Reynolds, 07722 040778,

Jon1reynolds@outlook.com

Bethel Action Group (BAG) – A Constituted Charity.

Noson BINGO Night



16th
January
6.30pm

Dolwyddelan School Hall

£1 per book Raffle available
Light refreshments available
Cash only

Thank you for your support
Dolwyddelan Carnival Committee

Turning on of the Christmas Lights

The Square, Dolwyddelan
Wednesday 3rd December
6.00pm

Our guest for switching the lights on
Rhian Haf

Includes a visit from Santa with
Christmas gifts.

Mulled wine and mince pies.

Come and sing some
Christmas Carols
Welcome All



MONDAY CLUB.

The Dolwyddelan Monday Club meets on the fourth Monday of most months in The Pavilion. Our meetings normally commence at 2 o'clock and finish when we feel like it.

Some meetings involve entertaining ourselves with a quiz or a chat - and at other meetings we have a guest speaker and have had talks on many diverse subjects.

Tea, biscuits and a good chat are always the norm.

We also have an annual day trip out, and in the past have taken a trip around Puffin Island, visited the 1950's Museum in Denbigh, and a tour of Anglesey etc.

Newcomers always welcome!

The Monday Club would also like to thank Eurwyn Roberts for all the talks and time he has given to us over the years. He will be missed by us all. Thank you Eurwyn.

John Weedon.

Dolwyddelan Community Council



We would like to thank everybody who turned out at the Cenotaph for the annual Remembrance Service. This is a partnership between the Dolwyddelan Community Council and the Bro Gwydir / St Gwyddelan's Church in its organisation. We would like to show our appreciation for the invaluable support from Doli in Bloom, the grass cutting by Idris, Mark for the wooden soldier cut outs and Alfa Tree Services for cleaning and preparation on the highway. Hugh Thomos took the service at the church and led the ceremony at the cenotaph. Thank you to all those that helped in the readings and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

We have received some funding from the Conwy Valley & North Wales Coast Community Railway Partnership & CVSC to provide pensioner dinners once a month for 5 months to 12 pensioners in the village. We hope this is successful and if so we will look for further funding to continue it and hopefully expand the offer.

During the summer we applied to the Conwy UKSPF Community Renewal Key Fund and Eryri Communities Fund for funding to cover the next stage of feasibility studies for a potential small hydro scheme in Cwm Penamnen. We were successful in the funding application which will allow us to go ahead with archaeology, ecology, geomorphology and topographical surveys. Once this is done and if a scheme is viable we will bring the various options back to the community to see if it is possible to proceed with a scheme to increase the resilience of Dolwyddelan by investing in community owned energy production.

Wedi ei ariannu gan
Llywodraeth y DU



Funded by
UK Government



We have over the summer written again to Ken Skates Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales about our lack of a bus route. His reply states that they are making plans to move away from the current deregulated system of providing bus services to a new centrally co-ordinated franchise system through the new Buses (Wales) Bill which is currently making its way through the Senedd. This will allow TfW and the local authorities to introduce a more co-ordinated network of services driven more by passenger need than bus company profits. We will keep trying with Conwy Council and TfW to get an improved service. We have

also contributed to Community Transport Research in Conwy and raised the issue again with them. Transport for Wales was seeking feedback from passengers and stakeholders on proposed changes to the Conwy Valley Railway timetable. We hope many of you replied.

The County Council no longer provide the subsidised skips to the community councils. Conwy Council do a bulk waste collection for up to 4 items for £30 if you have anything large that needs removing.

Simon Shuttler, Community Council Clerk



‘Hair by Thea’ (Blaenau Ffestiniog), now in Dolwyddelan



Thea can come to your home, or set up a mini salon at ‘AJ Physio and Well-Being Clinic’, Church Street.

She has a backwash basin and makes a real treat of a session, with a wonderful head massage included (if desired.)

Prices: £15 kids cut; £20 men’s cut;
£25 cut and wash; £70 colour cut and style.

Please message her on Facebook, ‘Hair by Thea’ to arrange a convenient time, or contact Ali Physio on 07780 165844

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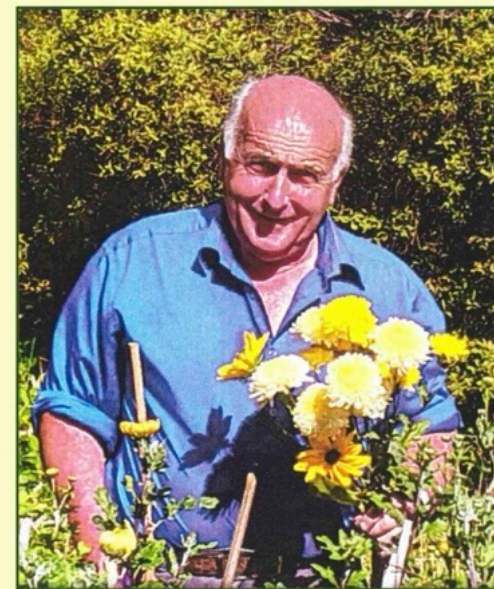
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Carrie & Mike look forward to
welcoming you to



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